

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 27, 2023

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)

Chair: Larry Stranberg

Minutes: Liane Nunn

Present: Eva Navrot, Lindsay Sidor, Shannon Thom, Christa Smith, Silvia Seibert-Dubray, Johnson, Hannah Diether, Pat Biblow, Kylie Thomas, Laurie Walters, Sherry Yonkman, Carla Bullinger, Beth Veenkamp, Madi Rushton, Robin Hunt, Michael Moses, Jean Oke, Larry Stranberg

Land Acknowledgement

The Social Planning Council of Williams Lake and Area would like to acknowledge this meeting is taking place on the traditional unceded territory of the Secwepemc Nation and the T'exelcemc people.

Review & Approve Agenda for November 27, 2023

Motion Sherry Yonkman Seconded by Silvia Seibert-Dubray Carried

Review & Approve Minutes for October 23, 2023

Motion Shannon Thom Seconded by Lindsay Sidor Carried

Member Introductions: Share your name and the organization you represent.

Guest Speaker(s): Liane Nunn, Revive Thrive Poverty Education and Awareness Campaign

- The Thrive strategy was completed in 2021 is a work of over two years of community engagement, research, data analysis, and planning to identify approaches, practices, and actions that are a priority in our community in addressing and reducing poverty.
- The action item we are currently focusing on is the Community Awareness and Attitudes through an education and awareness campaign. This campaign is being created to provide an inclusive look into the new reality of what it means to live in poverty with a goal of implementing the strategic actions identified in the Thrive Poverty Reduction Strategy to make change in our community.
- The kickoff to this campaign is a community video series, hosted by the Social Planning Council and being developed by artists and storytellers from the community.
- Filming background footage in and around organizations until the end of the year.
- Doing interviews with people who have experience living in poverty in January.
- Video is scheduled to be completed end of March 2024.

Lightning Round

Beth Veenkamp, Economic Development of City of Williams Lake

- Hard time of year for everyone doing the hard work in the social service – tip my hat to everyone doing the work.

Eva Navrot – Seniors Centre

- You don't have to be 65+ to be a member at the Seniors Activity Centre – it is 50+, \$20 for a membership.
- December 19th is the last day the Centre is opened. Reopening January 3rd.
- Christmas Light Viewing for the seniors with transit – two buses fully booked to bring seniors around the community to look at the Christmas lights.
- Better At Home has expanded out to Horsefly.
- Senior Support Program – lost of advocacy work and lots of work helping seniors find housing.
- Meals on Wheels – meal service to those who can't cook or go out to get meals.
- Comment – Carla Bullinger – senior support program is funded through UBCM granting. Overwhelmed by the number of seniors accessing the program support. Now that funding is closing at the end of December, we are looking for ways to continue this.

Lindsay Sidor, CIBC

- Please reach out if there is specific information you are wanting in the updates on the financials for the SPC.

Shannon Thom, WorkBC

- A little slow the last couple of weeks
- Haven't seen the job postings for seasonal jobs that we usually do.

Bettina Johnson, Fraser Basin Council

- Awaiting project approval (spring 2024) to hire a coordinator to lead communications and engagement, to advance the proposed Cariboo Wood Innovation Training Hub, which as imagined will serve as a centre for advancing regional action in diversifying the forest economy and advancing value-added wood manufacturing. More to come. It's a regional, collaborative opportunity. The center will serve as a place to advance value added wood manufacturing,
- We are interested in collaborative work and existing projects – please reach out.
- Carla – what's the range in the projects?

- FBC works in the entire province of BC. We are interested in resilient and sustainable communities. There are lots of ways we can support projects under this umbrella.

Pat Biblow, Thompson Rivers University

- Opening event for Witness Blanket at 1:00 today (November 27th)
- There is an app around the blanket that lets you look at the items on the blanket and learn about the history.
- Looking for a new food services person on campus for students.

Sherry Yonkman, Downtown Williams Lake BIA

- Winter Lights Festival on Saturday (December 2nd)
 - Activities in downtown business 1-4
 - Earth Friendly Activity at the Art Centre
 - Potato House is hosting pictures with Santa.
 - 5:00 on December 2nd – Santa Clause Parade, followed by an event at the Limelight Theatre – anyone welcome. Crafts, cookies, hot chocolate, juice, water, and cookie decorating.
- Rolled out Downtown Dollars – a shop local program for Williams Lake. 53 different locations to spend the dollar cards.
- Clean Team is still progressing – in the process of buying the equipment to start the program in 2024.

Michael Moses, City Council

- Last few weeks in Victoria and Ottawa – board meetings
- Advocating to the governments for more help for predictable funding for housing/disaster mitigation/rural cities like ours so we can stop playing grant roulette.

Silvia Seibert-Dubray, Well-Being and Safety Plan Coordinator with City

- Winding down on Red Cross grant.
- Mental Health and Wellness fair at the high schools – saw over 800 kids come through with 13 agencies for them to speak to.

Carla Bullinger, Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy

- Family Literacy Week in January – several events in WL.
- Launching it with Family Fest on January 20th.
- With Thrive Video project – if you know of anyone that may want to interview in the video reach out Liane.

Robin Hunt, Central Cariboo Community Food Hub

- Hamper program for up to 100 participants/families/individuals
- Includes local beef, vegetables, pantry items, and Indigenous fish.
- Cut off for sign up is December 1st, pick up December 15th.
- Co-hosting along side the SSMPA a producers workshop ideally at TRU WL campus, it will be a full day with lunch and refreshments provided free of charge, focusing on demystifying farm gate licensing, rotational grazing and cover crop integration, emergency management, and climate resilient livestock production, with invites to industry groups such as agsafe, forage council, invasive species bc, producer associations, ministry of ag, etc. with chances for networking and table discussions, following the workshop day well have a pub night social for producer networking.

Questions: *Shannon Thom* – if someone is getting hampers through other services, are they still eligible? *Robin Hunt* - Yes, open to everyone.

Hannah Diether, Rural Divisions of Family Practice

- For anyone without a family doctor, there are two local walk-in clinics operating in 100 Mile House.
- Exeter Clinic has walk-in appointments on Fridays and there is a NP virtual walk-in clinic that is seeing patients after work hours in the evening.
- There are also several larger, provincial walk-in clinics available for people without a family doctor.
- If you don't have a family doctor and would like one, people should sign up with the Health Connect Registry by calling 8-1-1 or visiting the website.
- The process for an urgent and primary care center in Williams Lake has also begun.
- Drivers Medicals for people without family doctors can be done at the following clinics:
 - o In Williams Lake:
 - Atwood Clinic – ph. 250-398-8319 to book
 - Comer Clinic – ph. 250-398-8499 to book
 - o In 100 Mile House:
 - Exeter Clinic – ph. 250-395-2271 to book (will see patients from WL as well)
 - Cariboo Mall Clinic – ph. 250-395-4010 to book

Kylie Thomas, Thompson Rivers University

- Looking for people interested in offering food and beverage services on campus.
- Potential studio space for interviews for the Poverty Video.
- Need for ECE trained workers in the community – hoping to deliver in a program in Winter of 2024. Please share the phone number (250-392-8000) if someone wants to be in this program – we will start an interest list.
- TRU Gala raised significant funds that go towards scholarships and bursaries.
- Hosting an information session for ECE providers - workers, employers, agencies and those interested in taking ECE. The session will be noted by the ECE Chair and Faculty on December 11 @2pm on the Williams Lake campus. Looking for input on the program delivery structure.

Jean Oke, Scout Island

- Ongoing education program in partnership with the school district.
- Taking part in the earth friendly event and the art centre during Winter Lights Festival.

Madi Rushton, CMHA, CCB

- Huge thankyou to everyone sharing the Red Bin donation project.
 - o Holiday sock+ drive around in town. If you see red bins (20 locations), donate items in the bins and the CCMH will gather the items, place into gift bags, and distribute around the community.
- Some job postings at our organizations.
- Have delivered to ASSIT workshops resulting in new suicide interview caregivers in our community and surrounding areas.

Laurie Walters, Social Planning Council

- Continue to be in awe of everyone single one of you and the work you do in the community.

Larry Stranberg, Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin (CF)

- Loans are slow.
- Now the director sitting on the Elder Community College.
- As of next board meeting, stepping down as Chair. Been in this role for 5/6 years. Thank you to SPC.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:50

Motion: Carla Bullinger